

Original Screenplay

HOME DETENTION

(DRAFT THREE)

Written by

Judith Irene Cowley

A thesis submitted to Victoria University of Wellington
in fulfilment of the research requirements
for the degree of
Master of Arts in Creative Writing.

2015

Address: 204/28 Waterloo Quay, Pipitea, Wellington
Email: cowleyjudith@gmail.com
Phone Number: 021 2650219

EXT. EDGE OF NEW ZEALAND CITY/-MORNING

Aerial view of the bush on a hill.

SOUND OVER: TUI and BELLBIRD CALLS.

The rays of sun illuminate mist rising from the trees.

SOUND OVER: SONG LIKE NINA SIMONE: "I SHALL BE RELEASED"
plays all over the opening scenes.

Camera pans to the right to a road on a hill. Over the brow
of the hill a WHITE PROBATION CAR comes into view.

We follow the car through the countryside and watch it
disappear off into the distance towards the city.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM-LATER

It's a kitchen in a seventies house, that hasn't been updated
for years. A worn formica bench, and mustard painted
cupboards. All the surfaces are cluttered with keepsakes and
recycling. GLORIA, (54) a petite, anxious Maori woman washes
plastic bags and drains them over the taps.

Gloria's in a trance at the window, then sees her husband
BOB, (60) picking up dog shit with a spade. He's an
emotionally burnt out and bitter ex-Policeman, a big man from
colonial stock.

The lawn is protected from dogs by soft-drink bottles filled
with water, but they obviously don't work.

Bob swears.

Gloria walks away from the window.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIAS BACK LAWN.

Gloria unpegs two dry SINGLE SHEETS off the ROTARY
CLOTHESLINE.

The PHONE RINGS (OS) twice. The MUSIC stops

The phone switches onto the answer phone (OS).

BOB
(Answer phone)
Leave a message.

INT/EXT. MEL'S BLACK AUDI PARKED OUTSIDE COLLEGE-DAY

Mel(34), a handsome, part-Maori woman, sits in the driver's seat, her phone to her ear. Her immaculate make-up is smudged.

A BLACK LABRADOR, POPPY sits up on the passenger seat. The rest of the car is packed to the roof with baggage.

MEL

Mum. Mum. If you're there, Mum pick up... please.

Her son SAM, (14) a tall gangly red-haired boy opens the door, shocked seeing all the stuff in the back.

SAM

What's happening?

Mel clicks off her phone.

MEL

Just get in.

Sam's freaked out. He arranges Poppy on his lap.

Mel drives off.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET

The white probation car drives along a suburban street.

We see a street sign:

Quarantine Road.

The car than turns into Quarantine Road. The houses were all built in the seventies. Red and orange leaves fall from large trees.

Behind the white car, a BLUE SECURITY VAN turns into the street.

Then both vehicles turn into Bob and Gloria's driveway.

Bob watches warily from the front lawn.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S DRIVEWAY

ROBBIE (36), slowly gets out of the white car and looks around. He's part-Maori, short and wirey with a boyish face and extensive body tatoos.

Gloria stands by the front door.

TAMA (45), a Maori probation officer lifts Robbie's suitcase from the boot.

The TECHNICIAN from the van joins them.

Bob appears holding his spade.

He sees Robbie look at Gloria. She's beaming.

Bob's FURIOUS and is about to vent his spleen, when he's distracted by Mel's Audi pulling up behind the other vehicles.

Mel, Sam and Poppy spill out.

Mel sees Robbie and is stopped in her tracks.

BOB

Mel?

Mel bursts into tears.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S HOUSE KITCHEN/HALL/ROBBIE'S OLD BEDROOM

Mel and Sam sit at the dining room table. Mel's been crying
She drinks wine.

SAM

You can't make me!

MEL

Just a few nights.

Gloria comes into the kitchen, gets the single sheets from the hot water cupboard. Bob follows her raging.

Mel and Sam freeze.

BOB

You never asked me!

GLORIA

I was going to--

Gloria leaves the kitchen, Bob follows.

BOB

You can't do this!

Gloria says nothing.

BOB (CONT'D)
He's not staying here!

They walk through to the bedroom which was once a teenage boy's, with skateboarding posters on the wall.

BOB (CONT'D)
He's got to go!

Gloria shakes out a sheet.

BOB (CONT'D)
IT'S MY HOUSE!

Gloria stops still. She's trembling.

GLORIA.
It's my house too!
(after a pause)
Robbie's our son. He's sick. He's
staying.

Bob turns away. He picks up a TEDDY BEAR dressed in police uniform from, with FTP (Fuck the Police) written all over it. He throws it across the room.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S HALL/DINING ROOM

Bob heads for the front door when he meets Tama, Robbie and the technician coming in.

He reverses into the dining room until they pass.

MEL
Dad, what's going on?

Bob glares at her, then turns and walks back out the door.

Mel starts crying again.

INT. ROBBIES BEDROOM

Robbie sits, legs fidgeting, while the technician prepares to attach the SECURITY ANKLE BRACELET to Robbie's left ankle.

Tama looks around the room.

They hear the front door slam as Bob leaves the house.

Robbie shakes his head.

The bracelet is slipped around Robbie's ankle.

The four corners of the lock click into place. Click, click, click, click.

ROBBIE

Ouch, I should have shaved my legs.

Tama smiles.

Robbie raises his left leg next to a BLACK BOX held by the technician.

The box BEEPS, and three lights light up, one red and two orange.

The Technician stows the black box up on top of the wardrobe shelf.

TAMA

Come on. We'll test the alarm.

EXT BOB AND GLORIA'S FRONT AND BACK LAWN

Tama, the technician and Robbie walk out to the front door.

Bob sees them and disappears out of sight.

Tama, the technician and Robbie walk out to the front of the property, then walk down the side fence. Robbie's joking.

ROBBIE

I was climbing over these fences as soon as I could walk.

TAMA

You won't be now.

They stop two thirds away from the rear of the section.

TECHNICIAN

Here's your boundary line.

ROBBIE

What!

TAMA

Can't go past this clothesline.

Robbie, Tama and the Technician stand beside the ROTARY CLOTHES LINE look towards the back of the section. There's a PLUM TREE losing its red leaves, Bob's big VEGETABLE GARDEN and along the BACK FENCE, a board and baton SLEEP-OUT.

Robbie's looks down at his feet. He's not laughing now.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S DRIVEWAY.

Tama's in his car. Robbie stands beside the driver's door.

TAMA

No driving. No contact with old friends. And you can't leave the property at all without prior permission. Here's the form for your doctor to sign.

Tama passes him a piece of paper and his business card.

TAMA (CONT'D)

Text me those hospital appointment times.

Tama starts the engine.

TAMA (CONT'D)

And Robbie, let me know how things go.

Tama closes the door and backs the car out of the driveway.

Mel drives her Audi back up the drive, gets out, ignores Robbie and races inside.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/DINING ROOM-EVENING

Gloria peels potatoes at the sink.

Mel sits at the table with a glass and half bottle of wine. She blows her nose.

MEL

I rang you...

GLORIA

It's fine.

MEL

It's obviously not. Why is he here?

Robbie comes into kitchen from the hall.

ROBBIE

(To Mel)

Why are you here? Or aren't we allowed to talk about your fucked up relationship?

She gets up and walks away.

INT. ROBBIES ROOM

He looks around his old room.

He sits on his bed looking at the bracelet and up at the control box-

- then gets up and unpacks his very tidily packed suitcase.

He takes out a CALENDAR open on 'May', and pins it on the notice board.

Half the days have 'X's over them.

He finds a pen from his pencil case, and crosses off another day.

EXT BOB AND GLORIA'S FRONT LAWN

Bob kneels, digs weeds out of the lawn.

The neighbour's DOG walks in the gate, starts to squat on the lawn. Bob runs at it with his TROWEL.

BOB

Shit on your own lawn!

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/DINING ROOM-NIGHT

Bob sits in his chair in front of the TV.

Robbie, Mel, Sam and Gloria sit around the dinner table.

Robbie starts to eat. Sam picks up his knife and fork.

Gloria closes her eyes.

MEL

(To Sam)

Wait! Mum's saying grace.

Robbie carries on gobbling down his food.

GLORIA

Don't worry. I just say it to myself.

MEL

(Glares at Robbie)

It's polite to wait anyway.

SAM
Can I start?

Mel nods. They all eat. Robbie eats his meat with his fingers
Mel is appalled and glugs down her wine.

A NEWS ITEM about Waitangi Treaty claims is on TV.

BOB
Racist bullshit!

Bob changes the channel.

Mel, Sam and Robbie look at Bob, surprised. Gloria shakes her head.

There's an awkward silence from the table.

SAM
Show me your ankle thing?

MEL
Sam!

Sam gives his mum a 'chill out' look.

Robbie pulls up his trousers to show Sam the ankle bracelet under the table.

Mel gets up to refill her wine glass. She looks around.

Poppy sits beside Bob drooling for his food.

MEL (CONT'D)
You should really update this kitchen.

GLORIA
(Pauses)
How's your new job?

MEL
You get to see inside... you wouldn't believe how people--

Bob pushes Poppy away.

BOB
Get out!

Poppy perseveres.

BOB (CONT'D)
GET RID OF THIS DOG!

MEL
Poppy! Come here!

She drags her over to the table. Sam grabs her collar.

BOB
She should be outside!

Sam gets up.

SAM
Can I borrow a bowl to feed her?

GLORIA
I think we still have... in the
bottom of the pantry?

Mel finds it. She smiles.

SAM
You had a dog?

MEL
Tonto. Danny's dog.

ROBBIE
Dad gave him away.

There is a silence then the volume of the TV goes up.

INT. MEL'S OLD BEDROOM

The dressing table is set up with Gloria's moisturizer and hairbrush. Beside them is a 30 year old STUDIO PHOTO of Bob and Gloria with their three little children, DANNY, Robbie and Mel.

Gloria pushes her clothes to the side of the wardrobe.

Mel comes in wheeling her suitcase and holding two toothbrushes.

Sam follows her, she turns and gives him his toothbrush

Sam leaves.

MEL
Can't he go to his friends?

Gloria picks up her book, her pillow and her nightie from the bed. She looks at Mel.

GLORIA.
He's staying. If you don't like it,
you can leave.

Gloria walks out.

Mel looks like she has been slapped in the face.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BATHROOM

Sam brushes his teeth.

Robbie stands in the doorway.

The toilet flushes next door. Bob appears behind Robbie,
wants to get past.

Robbie ignores him. Bob gives up and heads for the laundry.

Robbie steps behind Sam.

SAM
Grandma said you're sick.

ROBBIE
Yeah.

SAM
(spits into the basin)
You going to die?

Robbie looks into the mirror. He has been trying not to think
about it.

Sam wipes his mouth on a towel.

SAM (CONT'D)
I hope not.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BEDROOM

Bob enters. Gloria lies on the far side of the bed, facing
away from him.

He gives her an irritated look, gets into bed.

GLORIA
I'll go back into the other room
when they leave.

Bob turns out the lamp.

EXT. HOSPITAL CARPARK-MORNING

Robbie arrives at the hospital in a taxi.

EXT./INT. TAXI-CONTINUOUS

DRIVER

That's twenty-six dollars.

Robbie looks shocked. Bloody expensive.

He opens his wallet.

INT. HOSPITAL KIDNEY DIALYSIS WARD/RECEPTION

Robbie takes the folded up permission form from his wallet and unfolds it.

MARYANNE, a funkily dressed receptionist gives him a warm smile.

MARYANNE

Hi, Robbie.

ROBBIE

(Suddenly shy)

Hi.

He hands her the form.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Can you please get the doctor to sign this? They have to know where I am every minute of the day.

Robbie sits in the HALF-FULL waiting room.

He picks up a plastic model of a kidney from the table. It comes apart and clatters to the floor.

PEOPLE look.

Robbie places the pieces back on the table. He picks up a BOOKLET. "DONATING A KIDNEY: A GIFT OF LIFE"

He puts it back down. Waits.

INT. CUBICLE DIALYSIS WARD CUBICLE-DAY

Robbie sits back in a comfy chair, hooked up to a whirring dialysis machine.

Maryanne returns with his form.

MARYANNE

Here, signed. And I need some information from you. Next of kin?

Robbie gives a big sigh.

EXT COLLEGE, BOUNDARY TREES

WILL, JENNA and Sam smoke cigarettes.

SAM

What if they split up?

JENNA

Your mother shouldn't stay with him.

SAM

Yes, she should.

JENNA

He's an asshole for doing that.

SAM

You don't even know him!

Sam turns away from her. Will rolls a joint.

JENNA

Will!

WILL

You guys need to chill.

JENNA

I'm going.

Jenna picks up her bag and leaves.

EXT COLLEGE BOUNDARY TREES-LATER

Will lights the joint. He offers it to Sam. Sam shakes his head. Will takes a drag.

SAM
Our house is like his prison.

WILL
Cool. What did he do?

SAM
I don't know.

Will passes it to Sam.

WILL
Go on.

Sam takes a tentative puff.

WILL (CONT'D)
Suck, and hold it.

Sam holds in the smoke then coughs. He passes the joint back to Will.

SAM
Tastes disgusting.

INT. COLLEGE BIOLOGY LAB

The CLASS work on their own projects.

Sam and Will and Jenna sit at the back.

Sam and Will are giggling, falling off their chairs.

Jenna is very annoyed.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S LOUNGE-NIGHT

It's quiet, except for a MOREPORK CALL.

Bob walks in to find Robbie and Poppy asleep on the couch.

He drags Poppy out.

EXT BOB AND GLORIA'S GARAGE

Bob pushes Poppy into the garage, and closes the door.

She yelps.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BEDROOM

Gloria reads her book.

Bob struggles to reach his toenails to cut them. He huffs and puffs as his nails flick all over the bed.

Gloria cringes.

She closes her book

GLORIA.

Can you take Robbie to the hospital tomorrow?

Bob says nothing.

GLORIA

He can't afford taxi's.

Bob shakes his head, his mouth a flat-line. He carries on cutting.

We hear POPPY HOWLING out in the garage.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S LOUNGE-MORNING

Robbie wakes up, cold.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S LOUNGE-MORNING

Robbie wakes up, cold.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S HALL-MORNING

Montage starts:

Robbie walks into the bathroom. We hear the SHOWER RUNNING

Robbie comes out.

Mel goes in. We hear the SHOWER RUNNING.

Bob knocks on bathroom door. Goes into toilet.

Mel comes out of bathroom. Sam goes in. We hear the SHOWER RUNNING

Bob comes out of toilet knocks on bathroom door. The SHOWER IS STILL RUNNING.

He waits. Bangs on bathroom door again.

BOB
Don't use up all the hot water!

Sam finally comes out. Bob storms into bathroom, slams door.

We hear SHOWER RUNNING. The shower curtain is closed.

BOB (OS) (CONT'D)
ARRGH!

The SHOWER IS TURNED OFF.

Montage ends.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BATHROOM

Bob yanks aside the shower curtain, he stands naked cold and furious.

INT. DIALYSIS WARD CUBICLE-DAY

GRANT, an old mate of Robbie's closes the curtain. He has a shaved head and a straggly goatie beard.

Robbie is hooked up for dialysis.

GRANT
How you coping?

ROBBIE
(Points to machine)
This is a bit of a drama.

GRANT
I mean at home.

Robbie rolls his eyes.

ROBBIE
I didn't want to live with him.

Grant knows what he means.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
I had no choice in the end. Either
Auckland close to the hospital or
home. Because of this.

Grant nods and sniffs the air.

GRANT
Hate that smell. Hospitals.

Robbie sniffs.

ROBBIE
Like death.

Grant looks at Robbie, concerned.

GRANT
Does it hurt?

He points to the fistula site on Robbie's arm.

Robbie shakes his head.

ROBBIE
It's my back that's sore.

GRANT
I could organise some painkillers.

Robbie raises his eyebrows, smiles.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BACKLAWN-DAY

Bob drags an old KENNEL out of the garage towards the back of the yard. The kennel is decorated in graffiti and a painted cartoon dog. Mel holds Poppy on a lead.

Bob picks up a CHAIN, a SPIKE and a SLEDGEHAMMER, then hammers the spike through the chain into the ground. Poppy sniffs the kennel.

BOB
That dog has to stay here from now on.

MEL
She's not used to--

BOB
Tough.

Beat

BOB (CONT'D)
Have you talked to Kevin?

MEL
Not yet.

BOB
What are you going to do?

MEL
I don't know.

BOB
You should go back.

MEL
Dad! You said that last time...
I...

BOB
For Sam?

MEL
What about me? No one ever thinks
about me!

Gloria walks over to them.

GLORIA
(To Bob)
Sorry um, I need some money. For my
hair cut.

BOB
How much?

GLORIA
Forty-five.

Bob pulls money from his wallet. He gives her two \$20 notes.

BOB
Find a cheaper place.

Gloria looks at Mel, embarrassed, then walks away.

Mel can't believe what she just saw.

BOB (CONT'D)
You can't just walk away when the
going gets hard.

Mel is angry.

BOB (CONT'D)
We had it much harder than you. And
we stuck together--

MEL

Yeah, the model marriage. Mum has to ask you for money and you sleep in different rooms.

Mel hands him Poppy and leaves. Bob starts to follow her.

BOB

Who do you think..

Bob trips over Poppy's lead.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BACK DOOR

The nosey next door neighbour, DENISE knocks at the back door. She holds a JAR OF MARMALADE.

Bob opens the door.

BOB

Oh. Denise.

DENISE

Haven't seen you for a while, Bob.

She strains to see past him.

He doesn't invite her in.

DENISE (CONT'D)

Just wanted to let you know I rang the council about that dog...

Robbie appears from the driveway.

DENISE (CONT'D)

Oh hello. We haven't met.

ROBBIE

Robbie.

DENISE

I was just telling Bob. We are on the neighbourhood watch together. I was just saying that I rang the council about the dog. Some people shouldn't own dogs. You can't have a dog if you don't have a fence.

She looks at Poppy who's tied up.

DENISE (CONT'D)
Unless you tie them up. The dog control came and talked to that woman. She's a renter. Since the rentals we have noticed some undesirables in our street.

There is silence.

DENISE (CONT'D)
Oh, Bob. I brought you this. The marmalade you like.

Bob smiles politely. Takes the jar. He's about to speak.

Denise turns to Robbie.

DENISE (CONT'D)
And Ronnie--

ROBBIE
Robbie.

DENISE
Who are you?

He steps forward, holds out his hand to Denise.

ROBBIE
I'm Bob and Gloria's drug-dealer son. I'm just home from prison.

That wipes the smile off her face. She disappears in a flash.

Robbie cracks up, laughing.

Bob glares at him.

BOB
You're still stupid.

He goes back inside and slams the door.

Robbie stops laughing.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BACK LAWN/ SLEEP-OUT-DAY

Robbie walks up and down beside the rotary clothes line that is aflutter with tea towels.

He walks under it and puts his free foot past the clothesline then back.

Robbie swings on the strut of the clothesline.
He walks back to the PATIO and sits on a CHAIR.
Sam and Will drop their school bags by the garage.
Sam shows Will around. Will points to Robbie.

WILL
Is that him?

Sam nods.

WILL (CONT'D)
I thought he had to stay inside?

SAM
(Whispering)
No he can go as far as the
clothesline.

Sam and Will stop outside the Sleep-out and look through the window.

Will opens the window and pushes Sam through the small gap.

Robbie jumps up.

ROBBIE
Oi! Get out of there!

Will turns around, and grins and waves.

Robbie spins the clothesline around in exasperation.

INT. SLEEP-OUT

Sam unlocks the door and lets Will into the sleep-out

They look around the room. Old rugby and band posters are peeling off the wall. There is writing and drawing directly on the wall.

The single bed is covered with a faded Mexican rug. The board and brick book shelves are stuffed full of books.

SAM
God, it's dusty.

WILL
It's cool.

Sam walks over to an old drum kit and taps his fingers on the dusty skin.

Then he walks over to the pin-board on the wall. He looks at the photos.

One photo shows Danny(11) Robbie(9) wrestling with Bob. They are all laughing. TONTO, a German Shepherd is barking at them.

The other is an old Tawa College First XIV team photo.

WILL (CONT'D)
Who's room was this?

SAM
I don't know.

Beat

SAM (CONT'D)
But I think it's gonna be mine now!

EXT. SLEEP-OUT

There are bed covers and cushions on the lawn in front of the sleep-out. Sam carries his packed bags towards the door.

Gloria walks out to the clothesline.

She sees Sam and rushes over to him.

GLORIA
What are you doing?

SAM
Grandma, I'm going to move in here.
With Poppy.

GLORIA
No! You can't. No one's slept there since...

Sam puts down his bags.

SAM
Who?

Gloria ignores him.

GLORIA
Did Granddad say you could move in there?

Bob walks into view.

BOB
Move in where?

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN-EVENING

Sam comes in the back door heaving his bags of clothes. He crashes through the hall door on the way to his room.

Mel and Bob watch him.

Gloria finishes dishing out dinner.

MEL
It's time you guys cleaned out that
sleep-out anyway.

BOB
He should have asked.

Mel sighs, puts plates on the table.

Bob takes his meal to his TV chair.

Robbie sits at the table.

BOB (CONT'D)
Sauce!

Mel and Robbie ignore him.

BOB (CONT'D)
PASS THE SAUCE--

ROBBIE
Get it yourself!

GLORIA
Oh, sorry..

Gloria picks up the SAUCE BOTTLE. Robbie holds her back.

ROBBIE
Don't Mum!

He lets her go. She takes it to Bob.

Robbie shakes his head.

GLORIA
What?

ROBBIE
That's pathetic.

MEL
Robbie!

Gloria bites her lip to hold back the tears.

Robbie picks up his dinner and walks into the lounge.

MEL (CONT'D)
Ignore him, Mum.

Mel's phone vibrates. She sees who's calling, then clicks it off.

INT. MEL'S OLD BEDROOM-NIGHT

Mel throws her phone on her bed.

Sam lies facedown on his bed.

Mel sits next to him and strokes his back.

MEL
Come on honey. Come and have your dinner.

SAM
I didn't know it was Danny's room.

Beat

SAM (CONT'D)
You never talk about him.

Mel doesn't know what to say.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIAS BACK LAWN-MORNING

Gloria places the basket of wet washing on the ground under the clothesline.

She walks over to the sleep-out, hesitates, then steps inside.

INT. SLEEP-OUT

Gloria walks slowly around the room.

She stops at the pin board to look at the photos.

Then she opens a drawer and tentatively pulls out a TAWA COLLEGE RUGBY FOOTBALL JERSEY.

In shock, she drops it on the floor.

She picks it up and buries her face in it and sobs.

She wipes her eyes on the jersey, folds it carefully, then slides it at the bottom of the drawer.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S GARAGE

The bonnet of Bob's OLD RED HOLDEN COMMODORE is up, while Robbie tests the oil level.

Gloria walks up holding the empty plastic washing basket. Robbie looks up.

ROBBIE

You okay?

Gloria quickly wipes her eyes.

Gloria nods.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Sorry. About last night. I didn't mean it. I just hate to see him order you...

There's an awkward silence. Gloria takes \$40 from her pocket.

GLORIA

Here. For your taxi.

ROBBIE

What! No Mum! You can't--

GLORIA

Ssh! My haircut money.

Gloria slips it in his pocket. Robbie shakes his head.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Just don't tell your dad.

ROBBIE

He might notice your hair.

Gloria shakes her head.

GLORIA

Nope he won't.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
You better not let him see you
mucking around with his car.

ROBBIE
I'm checking the oil.

GLORIA
Robbie, it's his car!

Robbie ignores this.

ROBBIE
It's your car too.

GLORIA
You know I haven't driven for
years.

ROBBIE
Do you miss it?

Beat

GLORIA
Yes, I do.

Gloria walks away. She comes back.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
I'm going to start driving again.

Robbie's impressed.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S GARAGE

Robbie closes the bonnet, wipes his hands. He walks around
the garage spotting stuff from his childhood.

He spies his old SKATEBOARD hanging on the wall.

He gets it down, dusts it off and tentatively skates out of
the garage.

Grant walks into the driveway, carrying a BAG of BOOKS.

GRANT
Hiya

ROBBIE
Hey!

Robbie stops, flips the skateboard up and catches it.

GRANT
Still got it, eh?

Robbie laughs.

Grant looks around.

GRANT (CONT'D)
Where is everyone?

ROBBIE
Inside.

GRANT
I brought you some books.

He hands him the bag.

ROBBIE
Thank God!

GRANT
(Whispers)
And I got you some oil capsules.
And some buds.

Grant pulls out two snap-lock plastic bags with buds and capsules from the top of the book bag.

Robbie grins.

Mel's Audi turns into the driveway.

Grant shoves the drugs back into the bag.

Sam and Mel get out of the car.

ROBBIE
Sam this is Grant. Remember Grant,
Mel?

GRANT
Hi.

Mel looks like she has seen a snake.

MEL
Sam, inside. Now!

Robbie shakes his head as Mel pushes Sam toward the house.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM

Mel berates Gloria.

MEL
It's not acceptable!

GLORIA
Mel, he's...

Robbie walks in.

MEL
That Grant's a ...a criminal.

ROBBIE
Don't you dare talk about my friend
like that!

GLORIA
Robbie--

ROBBIE
Fuck! He's better than the lot of
you. At least HE offered me a
kidney.

GLORIA
You didn't ask us!

ROBBIE
I'll never ask.

MEL
I wouldn't anyway.

ROBBIE
Of course not!

MEL
If I needed a kidney would you?

Robbie thinks, then he slowly nods.

He walks away.

Mel is confused.

BOB AND GLORIA'S BATHROOM

Robbie bends over in pain.

He swallows two capsules of cannabis oil with water.

When Gloria comes in, Robbie pretends he's fine.

GLORIA
She didn't mean it.

ROBBIE
She's a stuck up bitch.

GLORIA
Don't say that, Robbie.

Beat

GLORIA (CONT'D)
What are those?

ROBBIE
Painkillers.

Gloria looks worried. Robbie cracks a smile.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
Because I'm living with a houseful
of pains!

Gloria hates to see her son like this.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN- EVENING

Gloria and Robbie sit at the table drinking coffee.

Dishes dry on the rack.

Bob wears his SECURITY UNIFORM ready for work.

He stares at Gloria.

BOB
You got ripped off for that
haircut.

He picks up his sandwiches off the bench.

Gloria raises her eyebrows at Robbie. He smiles.

BOB (CONT'D)
Well some of us have got to work

Bob leaves.

EXT/INT GARAGE/GLORIA'S CAR-MORNING

Gloria opens the garage roller door.

She gets into the car.

She puts the keys in the ignition, checks the handbrake and the gear stick.

She adjusts the rear vision mirror and side mirrors then starts the engine.

She turns it off. The radio is on talk -back. Gloria changes the channel.

SONG LIKE:"UNCHAINED MELODY" fills the car.

She practices changing gears.

Gloria sits up straighter, smiles and continues her practice.

INT. SLEEP-OUT

SONG LIKE:"UNCHAINED MELODY" continues.

Bob holds Poppy on a lead.

He looks slowly around the room. He leans over the bed to look at the photos on the wall.

He looks at the photo of Danny, Bob, Robbie and Tonto.

Then he sees the rugby photo.

He unpins it, sits down on the bed and studies it for a long time.

He touches Danny's image gently. He is lost in thought.

Poppy licks his ear. He leans into her, breathes in her smell. His shoulders shake.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BATHROOM/ HALL/ ROBBIE'S ROOM

Gloria holds her head. She opens the cabinet, and finds an empty Panadol packet.

She walks back toward's her room, but stops outside Robbie's doorway.

She notices the bag of capsules in his half open drawer.

She thinks about taking some, but changes her mind.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/DINING ROOM

Mel carries serving bowls of Chicken Phad Thai and Steamed vegetables to the table.

Robbie has the HOT WATER CUPBOARD door open, changing the THERMOSTAT.

Bob enters from the hall.

BOB
Your mum's got a migraine.

MEL
I made my special dinner!

BOB
She won't want...

He sees Robbie.

BOB (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing?

ROBBIE
Turning up the water temperature.

BOB
Don't touch it. Get out!

ROBBIE
Keep your hair on.

Robbie quickly turns the temperature up to 65 degrees on the thermostat, then backs out of the cupboard smiling.

Sam crashes into the kitchen.

SAM
What's for dinner?

MEL
My Phad Thai recipe

SAM
(Chuckles)
It's your only recipe!

Mel's hurt.

MEL
 (To Sam)
 Wash your hands!

Sam turns on the kitchen tap. Mel turns it off and points to the bathroom.

Bob takes his dinner over to his chair and turns TV on.

Robbie takes his dinner into the lounge.

Mel stands beside the beautifully set table. Her special effort wasted.

BOB AND GLORIA'S BEDROOM/HALL

The darkness is split by a triangle of light, as Robbie opens the door. Gloria, lying on her back in bed winces and covers her eyes.

ROBBIE
 Hey Mum. Do you need anything?

GLORIA
 (Whispers)
 No. Thanks.

Robbie closes the door walks to his room.

INT BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN-NIGHT

Bob turns off the TV, walks to the hot water cupboard.

He turns the temperature down on the thermostat to 55 degrees.

INT. ROBBIE'S ROOM/HALLWAY/ DINING ROOM-MORNING

Birds are chirping, the sun pours through the window.

Robbie does a few press ups in his underwear, then slumps to the floor.

He sits on the side of his bed and rubs the itchy skin around the bracelet.

He slowly stands up, takes a pen from his dresser, and crosses off a new day on his calendar.

Sam just out of the shower, watches from the doorway.

SAM
Why you do that?

Robbie jumps.

ROBBIE
Erm... habit I suppose.

Sam smiles. Robbie wraps a towel around his waist

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
Who's here?

SAM
Grandma. She's still asleep. Mum
and Granddad are at work. Hey
there's no hot--

There is a KNOCK at the door. Sam runs to get it. Robbie stands in the hall.

Then KEVIN (48) bursts through the front door. He's suave expensively turned out and has blonde hair from a bottle.

SAM (CONT'D)
Dad!

KEVIN
Sammy Su. Oh, and look who's here.
The prodigal son!

ROBBIE
Good morning, Kevin.

SAM
I'll just get ready.

Sam races off to his room. There's an awkward silence.

KEVIN
Stay away from my boy, loser.

ROBBIE
He wouldn't be here if you'd kept
it in your pants.

Kevin ignores this. He yells after Sam

KEVIN
Where's your mum?

SAM (O.S.)
Work!

KEVIN
(sneers)
Her little hobby job.

Robbie clenches his fists, breathes deeply.

ROBBIE
Gotta go.

Kevin looks at Robbie's bracelet and laughs

KEVIN
Doesn't look like you're going
anywhere. Mate.

Robbie walks back towards the bathroom. Sam runs past.

ROBBIE
Have fun, Sam.

SAM
Yep. Thanks

Kevin and Sam exit.

Robbie walks into the bathroom, locks the door.

We hear the shower running. Then a yell as the water goes cold.

ROBBIE (OS)
FUCK!!

EXT. HOUSE FOR SALE

Mel and Donna set up an "Open Home" flag outside a driveway.

INT. KITCHEN OPEN HOME-DAY

The kitchen is quiet, immaculate. Mel and Donna wait for the public to arrive.

Mel checks her cell phone.

CU her phone, a screen full of unanswered texts from Kevin.

DONNA
You should have kicked him out.

MEL
His house.

There's a questioning look from Donna.

MEL (CONT'D)
Prenup.

DONNA
Bloody hell.

Mel picks up a cloth and rubs at a smudge on the fridge.

MEL
I'm thinking I should go back.

Donna's looks surprised.

DONNA
Why?

MEL
I don't earn enough.

DONNA
We'd better sell some houses!

Donna waves to a WOMAN and MAN at the door.

DONNA (CONT'D)
Come in. Just write your contact
details here.

The woman writes while Donna walks into the lounge with the man.

Mel looks at her phone again.

MEL
I haven't ever had to.

The woman looks up. What?

INT. SHOPPING CENTRE FOOD COURT

Sam and Kevin sit opposite each other, eating.

KEVIN
Do you want to come back home?

SAM
Yeah. No. Kind Of.

KEVIN
That's good.

Sam chews his burger. Kevin tackles his Sushi with chopsticks.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Tell your mum I need to talk to her.

SAM
You call her.

KEVIN
She's not picking up.

SAM
Well you shouldn't have wrecked everything, Dad!

Kevin nearly chokes on his sushi.

SAM (CONT'D)
You better sort it.

KEVIN
I will, we will.

INT/EXT BOB'S CAR/BOB AND GLORIA'S DRIVEWAY-MORNING

Gloria sits in the driver's seat, hyperventilating.

Robbie's an uneasy passenger.

ROBBIE
You should let me drive, Mum.

GLORIA
No, you're not allowed.

ROBBIE
Well, please, just relax.

Gloria takes big breathes, clenches the steering wheel

GLORIA
I'm fine.

Then she fully revs up the car and bunny hops backwards down the driveway.

EXT/INT BOB'S CAR/ HOSPITAL CARPARK

The trees at the edge of the carpark have lost all their leaves.

Bob's car speeds into the carpark.

ROBBIE

(OS)

Whoa, whoa steady.

Then the car lurches into a parking space, squeals to a sudden stop.

Gloria sighs. Robbie pats her shoulder.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

That's good um, thanks. Gotta go.

GLORIA.

I better get home.

Robbie escapes.

EXT/INT BOB'S CAR

Gloria backs the car out. She just misses another car then drives straight back into the carpark.

She clings to the steering wheel, a nervous wreck.

INT. DIALYSIS WARD CUBICLE

Robbie lies back, hooked up to a dialysis machine.

Gloria sidesteps through the gap in the curtain with two takeaway coffee cups in her hands.

GLORIA

Um...

He looks up, puzzled.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

I've decided to stay.

ROBBIE

Eh?

GLORIA

Here, I got you a black thingy.

Robbie, chuffed, takes the coffee.

ROBBIE

Thanks.

Gloria puts her cup down on the side table.

She rummages through her hand-bag to find a tea bag and pops it in her cup.

She looks up at Robbie who is chuckling.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

You still refusing to pay for tea.

Gloria's coy. Old habits die hard.

INT. DIALYSIS WARD/CUBICLE-LATER

While Robbie's sleeps, Gloria slips out.

INT. DIALYSIS WARD/RECEPTION-CONTINUOUS

Gloria stands at reception.

Maryanne, the receptionist hands her a DVD and a "Donate a kidney: A Gift of Life" booklet, which Gloria slides into her bag.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM-DAY

Gloria checks that no one is home.

She slips the DVD into the player, and pushes play.

INSERT: DVD of DOCTOR talking to camera.

DOCTOR

Becoming a kidney donor can give someone new life. But it's a big decision. A donor must have the same blood type and be a close tissue match to the recipient. Family members are the closest match.

Mel enters home early from work.

MEL

Hi Mum!

Gloria stops the DVD.

MEL (CONT'D)

What are you watching?

Gloria says nothing.

Mel picks up the DVD cover.

MEL (CONT'D)
'A Gift of Life.

GLORIA
It wouldn't hurt for all of us to
get tested.

MEL
You can, but don't expect me--

GLORIA
Just the test.

MEL
It's not just a test is it, Mum. If
I was a match, then how could I say
no.

GLORIA
He's your only brother.

MEL
What about Danny?

GLORIA
Mel, you know what I mean!

Mel puts the DVD cover down, walks away

GLORIA (CONT'D)
He deserves a chance--

MEL
What? Why?

GLORIA
You used to be so close.

Mel hesitates.

MEL
Used to, but he pissed off when I
needed him most.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S LOUNGE-CONTINUOUS

Robbie's reading on the couch. He's heard everything.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BACK LAWN/ DRIVEWAY-DAY

The trees are bare. Robbie's breath steams in the cold air.

He unchains Poppy and pats her.

ROBBIE

Not fair keeping you tied up, is it
girl?

He throws her ball. A few times she catches it. Robbie is obviously in pain, sore back.

They end up on the driveway. Robbie throws the ball, Poppy misses it and runs out into the street.

Robbie instinctively chases her. He tugs her back into the section.

He ties her to her chain. He's exhausted.

His cell phone rings.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN

Tama finishes a call on his cellphone, clicks it off.

TAMA

Don't do that again.

GLORIA

What will happen?

TAMA

(To Robbie)

If you break parole, you're back
inside. And it'll be Auckland.

ROBBIE

Fuck that.

GLORIA

Robbie.

Tama stands up and puts his hand on Robbie's shoulder.

TAMA

You're best here, mate.

INT. MEL'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

Sam plugs his iPhone into speakers. As Mel returns from a shower, the music hits her.

MEL
Turn it down!

Sam adjusts the sound balance. Mel pulls the plugs from the speakers. Silence.

Sam glares at her.

MEL (CONT'D)
Use your headphones.

Mel dries her hair with a towel.

SAM
Have you talked to Dad?

There's a knock and Robbie stands at the door, holding his old skateboard.

ROBBIE
You might get more use out of this,
Sam.

Sam's pleased. He tries it out.

MEL
Get it out of my room!

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S PATIO

A winter moon lights up the back yard. A MOREPORK CALLS out in the hills.

Mel's wrapped up warm sits on a CHAIR smoking.

Bob stands holding the empty compost bucket.

BOB
You'll lose him.

MEL
What!

BOB
He'll give up waiting. Men aren't
good on their own.

MEL
Bloody hell!

Bob hesitates.

BOB

And don't put meat in the compost.
It attracts the rats.

Bob walks to the back door.

Robbie wanders over to Mel.

ROBBIE

Sam can have my room if you like. I
could sleep on the couch.

MEL

No. No.

ROBBIE

Would be easier.

Beat

MEL

We might be moving out soon anyway.

ROBBIE

Don't go back.

Mel looks up at Robbie, surprised.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

He treats you like shit.

MEL

It's all very well...

ROBBIE

You deserve better than that.

Mel doesn't know what to say.

INT COLLEGE CLASSROOM-DAY

Most of the class have left. Jenna walks over to Sam.

JENNA

Hey, want to do something after
school? I'm not working.

SAM

Sorry, nah. I promised Will...

Jenna looks disappointed. Sam packs up his books,

JENNA
You know what I said about your
dad?

SAM
Yeah.

JENNA
I wish I hadn't--

SAM
He's... It's okay.

Sam's awkward.

SAM (CONT'D)
I gotta go.

JENNA
See ya.

She watches him leave.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/DINING ROOM

Will and Sam are sorting out the PLAY STATION CORDS.

Robbie walks in, with a PACK OF CARDS.

ROBBIE
Anyone for a game?

WILL
Na. We're gunna play a better game.

Robbie sets up a game of Patience on the table.

Will and Sam connect the play station to Bob's TV.

Bob enters and looks at the play station.

BOB
Get that off my TV!

The boys stop what they are doing.

BOB (CONT'D)
NOW!

Sam looks sick. Scrambles to unhook the cables.

Robbie smirks.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/DINING ROOM

Robbie, Sam and Will play poker at the table.

Gloria takes some chops out of the fridge. She turns to Sam.

GLORIA
Robbie, er Danny, go and ask your
dad for some silver beet.

They all look at her, puzzled.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
What?

SAM
I'm Sam.

GLORIA
What?

SAM
You said Danny.

Gloria smiles.

GLORIA
All mothers do that.

WILL
(To Sam)
Your turn!

SAM
No. Just wait.

Sam puts down his cards and gallops to the back door.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BACK GARDEN

Bob gives Poppy a pat, then gets on with checking his broad beans.

Sam runs over from the house. He cuddles Poppy.

SAM
Grandma wants some silver beet.

Bob nods, walks over to his silver beet and picks some outside leaves.

SAM (CONT'D)
Sorry about your TV.

BOB
Should have asked.

Uncomfortable silence.

BOB (CONT'D)
Here.

Bob passes him the silver beet.

BOB (CONT'D)
You okay?

Sam nods.

BOB (CONT'D)
If you're bored, I could do with
some help around here. I'll pay
you.

SAM
Sweet!

Sam is chuffed.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIAS PATIO-DAY

Sam lifts up paving tiles with a spade, then picks them up,
letting them slide down into the wheelbarrow.

Sweating Robbie picks up a pile of cigarette butts that were
under one of the tiles, puts them in a bucket.

He sits and watches Sam.

SAM
Do you have to work in prison?

ROBBIE
Yeah, if you're lucky. And study.

SAM
Study?

ROBBIE
That's where I learnt to read
properly. Got my NCEA.

Sam looks surprised.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIAS BACK LAWN

The patio pavers are in a pile on the lawn.

Robbie sits exhausted.

Sam sits down next to Robbie, looking at his grazed hands.

Bob in his work uniform, walks over to them.

BOB
No pay for shirking

ROBBIE
He's got sore hands

BOB
Soft boy, eh. Need to harden up!

ROBBIE
Yeah 'Take a drink from hard
creek', like you told us, eh Dad?

Bob ignores him.

SAM
It's okay.

ROBBIE
(looking at Bob)
It's not okay.

BOB
You keep out of it!

ROBBIE
Na.

Sam slips away.

BOB
Shut your mouth!

ROBBIE
You're such a prick!

Robbie walks away.

BOB
Useless.

Robbie turns around.

Denise peeks over the fence. Her head disappears instantly when Robbie sees her

ROBBIE
What did you say?

BOB
Useless good for nothing!

Bob walks back toward the house.

ROBBIE
(yells after him)
At least I haven't got blood on my hands.

This hits a nerve. Bob strides after Robbie.

BOB
Don't you ever talk to me--

ROBBIE
Someone's got to tell you what an asshole--

BOB
Fuck off!

Robbie steps back.

BOB (CONT'D)
Go and sponge off someone else.

ROBBIE
I fuckin' will.

Robbie marches down the drive. Mel watches from the front door.

Gloria pushes past her. Runs.

GLORIA
Robbie, no!

He hesitates at the gate, then walks out, along the street. He doesn't look back.

Gloria shakes Bob.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
Stop him!

Bob shakes his head and walks back to the house.

Gloria cries.

EXT SKATE PARK

Robbie sits on a park seat, watching kids on their skateboards. His cellphone rings.

EXT. SKATE PARK-DAY

Tama's probation car pulls into the carpark near the skate park.

Tama gets out, walks over to Robbie.

TAMA

Hey!

ROBBIE

Fuckin' bastard!

TAMA

What!

ROBBIE

My father.

TAMA

Come on!

He walks Robbie to the car.

TAMA (CONT'D)

Your dad was a cop. Yeah?

Robbie nods.

TAMA (CONT'D)

You must be a bloody
disappointment.

Robbie nods his head. Tama opens the passenger door.

TAMA (CONT'D)

Get in!

EXT BOB AND GLORIA'S CLOTHESLINE

Gloria takes the dry washing off the line.

Robbie saunters over.

GLORIA
What were you thinking!

Robbie just stares at her.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
You've probably blown it!

ROBBIE
Apparently not. Three strikes. On
my last chance.

GLORIA
No. I mean with your Dad!

ROBBIE
What?

GLORIA
I hoped I could convince him to go
for the test.

ROBBIE
No way!

Mel walks over, smoking.

Robbie holds out his hand.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
Can I have one?

Mel passes him hers.

GLORIA
Robbie you shouldn't!

ROBBIE
It won't be this that kills me.

Gloria and Mel look at each other.

INT. DIALYSIS WARD CUBICLE-MORNING

Robbie's hooked up for dialysis again.

His specialist, MR YOUNG sits beside him.

MR. YOUNG
You need a kidney.

ROBBIE
I'll wait for a donor.

MR. YOUNG
Everyone here is waiting. You don't
need to. Ask them.

ROBBIE
No way!

The Specialist gets up to leave.

MR. YOUNG
It might be worth rethinking that
one.

He pulls the curtain back and leaves.

FRANK, a dialysis patient in the next cubicle speaks up.

FRANK
Sorry, but I couldn't help over
hearing.

Robbie stares at his BOOK. He is not in the mood to talk.

FRANK (CONT'D)
It's just that... the donor thing.

Robbie looks up.

FRANK (CONT'D)
I've been waiting four years. Like
lotto. Bugger all chance.

ROBBIE
What about your family?

FRANK
Haven't got one.

Gloria appears with a coffee and a big smile.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Sorry, mate. Just saying.

Robbie nods.

INT BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN-DAY

Mel has been cleaning out the laundry. She comes into the
kitchen wearing rubber gloves, carrying a box of jars and
pile of plastic bags and a old flax KETE, balanced on top.

Gloria makes MARMALADE.

MEL
Mum, what should I do with these?

GLORIA
Oh, Mel, what are you doing?

MEL
Cleaning out the laundry.

GLORIA
I need these jars. And don't throw away those bags.

MEL
I'll put them in the garage.

Mel lifts up the kete.

MEL (CONT'D)
Is this yours?

Gloria wipes her hands on her apron, and takes the kete. She looks at it in awe.

GLORIA
This was from my harakeke class. Huia made it. Have to give away your first one.

Gloria smells the kete. Old flax.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
I gave my first one to Bob's mother. She hated the smell. She burnt it.

Mel is taken aback.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
I'll use this for my knitting wool.

Beat

GLORIA (CONT'D)
I was going to do some weaving again. I could teach you if you want.

MEL
I'd love that.

Gloria and Mel smile at each other.

MEL (CONT'D)

Oh, Mum.

Mel puts the box jars and newspapers on the table.

MEL (CONT'D)

Almost forgot.

She takes a bunch of \$20 notes from her wallet.

GLORIA.

What's this?

MEL

Our board money.

Gloria hands full, shakes her head emphatically.

GLORIA

Give it to your father.

MEL

No Mum. I want you to have it.

Mel slides the money into Gloria's pocket.

Gloria's unsure.

INT. MEL'S BEDROOM/HALL-NIGHT

Mel picks up Sam's clothes and food containers spread everywhere.

Sam walks in.

MEL

For God's sake Sam!

SAM

Leave my stuff alone!

MEL

This is my room!

SAM

It's my room too!

Sam storms out the door past Bob who stands in the hallway. He's heard the argument.

EXT BOB AND GLORIA'S BACK GARDEN-DAY

The tree has new buds.

Sam hoes around the leeks. Bob places a box of spinach plants on the ground.

He digs the soil. They both work quietly for a while.

BOB

I think it might be easier for everyone if you go back into the sleep out.

Sam beams. He's thrilled.

INT. SLEEP-OUT-DAY

Mel wipes everything down with a cloth. Beside her is a bucket of hot soapy water.

She lingers to look at the photos on the notice board.

Then she walks over to clean the bookshelf. She picks up a tacky DOG ORNAMENT and sits on the bed wiping it gently, lost in thought.

Gloria enters holding black rubbish bags.

Mel sighs, wipes her eyes.

Gloria opens a drawer, and packs some of Danny's clothes into a bag.

She pulls out the rugby jersey, looks at it, then shoves it into the bag.

Gloria picks a up black 'Guns and Roses' tee shirt.

GLORIA

I can't throw some of his stuff away.

Mel stands up. Puts the dog ornament back.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Do you think Sam would wear this?

Sam walks in laden with his gear.

SAM

Wear what?

Sam takes the shirt. In awe.

SAM (CONT'D)
(Chuffed)
Yeah, yup.

INT. SLEEP-OUT-NIGHT

The lamp throws a soft glow over the small room. Poppy sleeps stretched out on the single bed.

Will balances on the skateboard, smoking a cigarette.

Sam, wearing Danny's tee-shirt, points at the photo of Danny, Robbie and Tonto.

SAM
He died.

WILL
When?

SAM
He was seventeen.

Beat

SAM (CONT'D)
Some accident. Hit his head.

WILL
Sucks.

They are both quiet.

Sam sits next to Poppy

SAM
Can you get me some of that stuff?

WILL
Have you got any money?

SAM
A bit...

WILL
You need a job.

SAM
I've got one, helping my Grandad.

WILL
(Sarcastic)
Fun!

Sam looks embarrassed.

Will takes a big drag on his cigarette.

EXT. CITY BACK STREET-DAY

Sam and Will carry takeaways.

Ahead Jimmi and Vandal and talk to Jimmi's brother

SAM
I'm not coming. I'll wait here.

Will saunters on towards the other boys. Sam sits on a low wall to drink his coke.

Grant walks past the group then recognises Sam and stops.

GRANT.
Hi Sam. Need a ride?

SAM
No. Thanks. I'm waiting for my friend.

He nods in Will's direction. Grants takes a long look.

GRANT
Righto.

Grant walks to his CAR, turns back to look at the boys.

He looks concerned.

INT. DIALYSIS WARD CUBICLE

Robbie's hooked up to the dialysis machine. He looks pretty unwell. He and Grant play cards.

GRANT.
That boy of your sister's hanging around with some drop kicks.

ROBBIE
Who, Will?

GRANT
Yeah. And his mates.

Robbie frowns.

They play on.

GRANT.
I got them tests back.

Robbie stops.

GRANT
Na, I'm no good.

Robbie sighs.

ROBBIE
I read you can buy a kidney. From
India.

GRANT
Isn't it easier to ask your family?

Robbie shakes his head. They carry on playing.

INT. KEVIN'S KITCHEN

Mel looks around her old home. The kitchen and dining room are bachelor messy. Dishes and takeaway containers congeal on the bench.

KEVIN
Sit down.

Mel doesn't move. Kevin holds up a bottle of wine.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Drink?

Mel shakes her head.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Not like you.

She ignores this.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Coffee?

He points to the espresso machine.

MEL
Got milk?

KEVIN

Ah... no.

MEL

Green tea.

Kevin fills the kettle, gets tea stuff out.

MEL (CONT'D)

Sam wants his TV. And his games.

Silence except for the heating up of the kettle.

KEVIN

He asked me if he can move back.

Mel is surprised.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Please Mel, come home!

Kevin moves to touch her. She backs away.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I've apologised.

MEL

That's not going to fix it.

Mel sighs.

KEVIN

I don't know what more I can do.

MEL

Nor do I.

Kevin shoves all the plastic container's in the rubbish bin.

KEVIN

I'm not asking you again. I'll give you two more weeks to come back, otherwise you'd better get yourself a real job.

Mel picks up her bag and leaves.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S HALL-DAY

Bob comes out of the toilet.

He stops when he hears VOMITING NOISES from Robbie's room.

He looks alarmed.

INT. ROBBIE'S BEDROOM—CONTINUOUS

Robbie vomits into a bucket.

He lies back and pulls the sheet over his face. Sobs.

INT. HOSPITAL, SPECIALIST'S OFFICE—DAY

Robbie, unwell, pleads with Mr. Young.

ROBBIE
Do something!

MR. YOUNG
Sorry, Robbie, you'll just have to
wait for a match.

He takes his reading glasses off, leans towards Robbie.

MR. YOUNG (CONT'D)
Please ask your family.

ROBBIE
I've told you. No!

MR. YOUNG
For God's sake, why not?

ROBBIE
I can't owe them.

The Mr. Young sighs.

MR. YOUNG
I shouldn't say, but your mum has
already had the test.

Robbie doesn't want to hear this

INT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE—DAY

Mel and Donna close up the office.

DONNA
She's away more than here. I'm
going to have to ask her to leave.

MEL
I'll do it.

DONNA
Talk to her?

MEL
No! I'll be receptionist. As well
as sell.

DONNA
It's not well paid.

MEL
Better than what I get now.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN-EVENING

Gloria's makes dinner. Mel drinks a wine. Bob brings in some
broccoli.

MEL
It will be good to work more.

The phone rings. Gloria wipes her hands to answer it. Bob
grabs the phone.

BOB
She's busy-

Mel yanks the phone off Bob.

MEL
Sorry, here she is.

Gloria takes the phone. Mel makes a face at Bob.

He stands listening.

GLORIA
Yes, oh, okay... I understand.
Thanks.

Bob Mel watch her click off.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
Where's Robbie?

MEL
In the shower. What?

Gloria shakes her head.

GLORIA
I'm not a match. For him. For a
kidney.

Mel takes the phone off her and puts it back. Bob briefly touches Gloria on her shoulder.

Then he sits down and switches on TV.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/DINING ROOM-NIGHT

Robbie washes the dishes. Sam watches TV.

ROBBIE
Come and help.

SAM
I don't do dishes.

ROBBIE
You do here.

SAM
Where's the dishwasher?

ROBBIE
That's me.

Robbie turns off the remote and hands him the tea towel.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
And you're drying.

Sam reluctantly gets up and dries some dishes in silence.

Robbie wipes down a handmade WOODEN BREAD BOARD with poker work decoration around the edges. Mel brings her wine glass to be washed.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
I made this at wood-work.

MEL
No, I made it.

ROBBIE
No way. I gave it to Mum for her birthday. She always loved it.

Mel grabs it off him. He wrestles it back.

MEL
Look on the back. It will have my initials.

ROBBIE
Yeah look. R. Cleaver.

MEL

Show me.

He lumbers away from her.

Mel grabs him. They both giggle. Sam laughs too. Robbie hands her the board.

SAM

Did you guys always argue?

ROBBIE

Sometimes.

MEL

All siblings do.

SAM

I wish I had someone to argue with.

Sam takes the bread board from Mel. Studies it.

ROBBIE

We did stick up for each other too.
Remember when those Martin boys
raided your pinecone stall.

MEL

Yeah. Danny and you sorted them.

ROBBIE

Yes!

SAM

Hey, there's no name on this.

ROBBIE

But I know I made it.

Gloria walks in, picks up the kettle, looks at the bread board in Sam's hands.

GLORIA

Oh, Danny made me that. At wood
work. I love it.

Mel and Robbie smile at each other.

EXT BOB AND GLORIA'S DRIVEWAY-EVENING

The birds chirp. It's still light.

Kevin struggles under the weight of the large screen TV he has taken out of his SPORT SCAR. He is talking to Bob.

KEVIN
I've told her she has to make up
her mind.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
I can't cope with all this..

AND BOB
Cope with what?

KEVIN
The family apart.

Bob is furious.

BOB
You should have thought about that
before you broke the family up.

Kevin wobbles under the weight of the big screen

BOB (CONT'D)
Take that home with you. Sam
doesn't need it.

Bob stride's off.

Kevin drops the TV onto his back seat. He doesn't know what
to do next.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/DINING ROOM-DAY

Sam and Robbie watch home videos on Bob's TV. The curtains
are drawn.

Mel enters from the hallway.

SAM
Mum look at you when you were
little!

Mel sits at the table.

Video insert starts:

Bob (27) and Robbie(3), with a huge builders apron around his
waist.

Bob is building the sleep out. There are piles with a floor
and uprights.

Robbie hits in a nail that Bob has started.

Bob watches.

Mel (18 months) toddles into shot, reaching for Robbie's hammer.

MEL

Me!

BOB

Take her Gloria!

Robbie puts down his hammer and leads Mel to a pile of off-cuts of wood. He gives her a cuddle.

She squats and starts playing.

Robbie gets back to his hammering. Bob ruffles his hair.

BOB (CONT'D)

Good thinking, son.

Fade to black

Fade up

Bob (34), Danny(12), Robbie (10) and Mel (8) are playing rugby on the back lawn. Tonto is barking and trying to get the ball.

ROBBIE

(VO as he watches)

Bloody Tonto!

MEL

(VO as she watches)

You used to feed him to get him to drop it

Bob passes the ball, Mel misses it and Tonto has it. They all start chasing him. He's too fast.

Robbie disappears and comes back with a dog biscuit.

ROBBIE

Tonty, Tonty!

Tonto drops the ball and chases after Robbie and the biscuit.

Robbie stops.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Sit!

Tonto sits then he gulps the biscuit down.

Danny and Bob are on the ground fighting in the background over the ball. It turns into a wrestling match.

DANNY

No Dad you're hurting me!

BOB

Harden up!

Danny yells out

Robbie runs to rescue him. Mel jumps on the lot of them.

Tonto barks and barks trying to join in too.

End of insert.

Sam laughs. Robbie and Mel are quiet.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM-EVENING

Sam and Will search on the internet on Bob and Gloria's computer. It is very slow.

Bob enters, home from work.

SAM

Granddad, something's wrong with this internet!

Bob leans over the computer.

BOB

It's working. It's dial-up.

SAM

It's going to take all week to do my homework at this rate.

BOB

I'll get changed and have look at it.

He exits.

INT. SLEEP-OUT

Will sits on a spare mattress, He leans against Sam's bed, and holds an energy drink.

WILL

Dial-up! You gotta be joking!

Sam smiles.

He hands Will some money.

Will pockets the money, pulls out a small bag of tinnies.

WILL (CONT'D)
Here. But share.

Will rolls a joint from Sam's weed, throws the bag back on the bed.

Sam scrolls through the play-list on his I-phone, which is attached to speakers.

We hear the beginnings of a FEW SONGS. Then we hear one SONG. Sam rolls a cigarette, then gets up to find the lighter.

WILL (CONT'D)
This place would be good for a party.

There's a knock at the door.

Sam quickly passes his cigarette to Will, and shoves the tinnie bag under the mattress.

The door opens.

Bob pokes his head in.

BOB
I'll ring the people tomorrow about the internet.

SAM
Thanks Grandpa. That's awesome.

Bob exits, closing the door.

Sam collapses on the bed.

SAM (CONT'D)
A great place for a party. Not.

Will laughs.

EXT BOB AND GLORIA'S BACK LAWN

Bob gives Poppy a long good night pat, then heads towards the house.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BEDROOM/HALL/DINING ROOM

Gloria turns on the light. Bob is not in bed.

She gets up and walks out of the room towards the dining room which is lit up only by a video playing on the TV.

Bob watches. He squeezes his nose.

Previously seen video of Bob (34), Danny(12), Robbie (10) and Mel(8) playing rugby, Tonto barking and everyone laughing, plays on the TV.

Gloria stands behind Bob and puts her hands on his shoulders.

He touches her hand, clears his throat.

Gloria and Bob watch the video.

The screen goes to black then we see Robbie (11), holding a tennis ball,

ROBBIE
Jump, Tonto, jump

Tonto is leaping for the ball.

EXT BOB AND GLORIA'S BACK LAWN-DAY.

Robbie and Poppy have a game with a ball. He sits on the grass, too tired to run around so throws the ball. She brings it back.

ROBBIE
Sorry, girl I'm buggered.

He lies back. Poppy barks. She nuzzles his hand. He pats her and she finally lies next to him, her head on his chest.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S HOUSE-ROBBIES ROOM/BATHROOM

Gloria squeezes her head.

Gloria opens Robbie's door, sees the capsules poking out of his top drawer.

She takes a handful to the bathroom.

And swallows them with water.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S DRIVEWAY-LATER

Gloria backs Bob's car out very slowly.

EXT. STREET

SOUND OVER: SONG LIKE "POI E"

Gloria drives very slowly. Two cars are queuing behind her.

We hear Gloria singing along to the song on her tape. The cars behind her pass and toot their horns. She waves as if she might know them.

EXT. CAR OUTSIDE BOB'S WORK

SOUND OVER: SONG LIKE "POI E"

Gloria parks the car and waits for Bob to get in.

Bob walks around to the drivers door and motions for her to get out. She moves over.

Bob gets in, turns down the music.

Gloria shrugs and smiles.

INT. SUPERMARKET-DAY

Gloria and Bob are shopping.

Gloria's dawdling along, Bob's in a hurry.

Bob placing normal grocery items in the trolley.

Gloria adds lots of delicious treaty foods. Bob puts them back.

He is getting a bit irritated.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN-LATER

Bob is on the phone to an internet provider.

BOB

I just gave someone my ID number
and password... I can't understand
what you are saying... the what?
Can you say that again?

Mel enters.

BOB (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I just don't know what
you are saying. No I am not deaf!
Learn some bloody English won't
you!

Bob throws the phone onto his chair.

Mel picks it up.

MEL

Don't worry about it Dad.

SOUND OVER: SONG LIKE "LADY" BY KENNY ROGERS (OS)

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S LOUNGE-CONTINUOUS

Sam and Robbie have all the old records out on the floor and
the aged stereo turntable powered up.

Gloria knits on the couch.

PLAYING: SONG LIKE 'LADY' BY KENNY ROGERS.

Bob opens the sliding door, stands listening, Mel stands
beside him.

Robbie hasn't seen them. He laughs.

ROBBIE

This was Dad and your smoochey song
wasn't it Mum!

Gloria looks over at Bob. They exchange a little smile.

Bob leaves.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BACK GARDEN-DAY

Bob digs compost into a few rows of bare earth.

He is whistling the tune to the "smoochey" song.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S LOUNGE-DAY

Sam and Robbie have all the records over the floor.

Gloria knits on the couch.

SONG LIKE THRILLER' BY MICHAEL JACKSON 'PLAYING.

Sam holds Michael Jackson's Thriller record cover. It has Danny's name written on it.

SAM
What happened to him?

ROBBIE
Who?

SAM
Danny.

Robbie hesitates.

ROBBIE
It's hard...

SAM
What?

Robbie turns off the stereo.

ROBBIE
He died playing rugby.
He shouldn't have been playing. I
wanted him to come off.

GLORIA
Robbie.

SAM
What?

ROBBIE
He got hit in the head. His COACH
told him to keep on playing.

GLORIA
Leave it Robbie.

SAM
Sorry, I shouldn't have asked.

GLORIA
It was no one's fault.

Robbie turns away, hands clenched.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

You see, Sam, how can I put this.
When you lose someone like that,
you go over and over in your mind,
wondering how you could have
stopped it. Changed what happened.

Gloria looks at Robbie

GLORIA (CONT'D)

You get really angry. And it never
lets up. It's tiring, Too hard.
Then one day you just can't do it
any more. You realise it won't
change anything. Won't bring him
back. You have to let it go.

Robbie turns towards his Mum.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN-EVENING

Mel, her wet hair wrapped up in a towel, sits at the table
and paints her finger nails. She's got her glass of wine
beside her.

Gloria washes the dishes at the sink while Sam dries.

Bob enters from the hall. He's in his work uniform.

BOB

What a pong!

Gloria opens the window. Mel sniffs the nail varnish brush.

MEL

I like it.

Bob picks up a packed 'lunch' off the bench. Takes his keys
from the KEY HOLDER and stands watching.

SAM

(To Mel)

Where are you going?

MEL

Out.

Mel waves her hands in the air to dry her nails.

SAM

With Dad?

Mel sighs.

MEL
No. With Donna. I might stay the
night.

BOB
Mel with your drinking, don't
drive.

MEL
I'm not a teenager, Dad.

BOB
I'll drop you off if you like.

MEL
Donna's picking me up.

Bob turns to leave.

MEL (CONT'D)
But Dad. Thanks anyway.

Bob smiles, then leaves.

In the background, Robbie walks over to sink, swallows some
capsules with water.

SAM
I might go to Will's.

MEL
His mum's there?

SAM
Yeah. We're just going to play a
game.

MEL
Okay, but be back by eleven.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM-NIGHT

Gloria knits while she watches a drama on TV.

Robbie enters, sits at the computer. Turns it on.

He looks to make sure Gloria is preoccupied, types into
Google search.

Insert: "Buying kidneys"

The internet is slow.

Up comes a list of sites. He clicks on "I need a kidney now"
It opens with headline "Buying a kidney from India"

INT. SPEED DATING BAR-NIGHT

Tables are set up around them. Other MEN and WOMEN mill
around. Mel and Donna take their drinks from the bar.

MEL

Oh Donna! You said we were just
going for a drink..

DONNA

I know. It kind of is. Just with
single men.

MEL

Bloody speed dating! Speed dating.
Oh my God!

DONNA

Just relax, enjoy yourself.

Mel's very agitated.

DONNA (CONT'D)

You just have to climb back on the
horse.

Mel jumps up.

MEL

I'm going.

A bell rings. It's too late.

INT. SPEED DATING BAR-NIGHT

Speed dating is in full swing. MEN and WOMEN are paired up at
tables. The bell rings and the men move along to the next
table.

Mel looks like a fish out of water.

Montage starts:

DATE MAN ONE

I prefer younger women. Fresh. No
baggage.

BELL RINGS.

DATE MAN TWO

I went on a tantric sex workshop.
It's not just physical, it's a
spiritual experience...

BELL RINGS.

DATE MAN THREE

I still flat with my ex-wife. She's
supporting me while I write my
thesis.

BELL RINGS.

Mel looks miserable.

Montage ends.

EXT. SPEED DATING BAR-NIGHT

Mel and Donna drink and smoke outside.

MEL

You are so mean.

DONNA

Some of them were quite
interesting.

MEL

To themselves.

Mel stubs out her cigarette.

MEL (CONT'D)

It's a weird way to meet someone.

DONNA

How did you meet Kevin?

MEL

At my first job. He was my boss.

Donna notice's Mel's vibrating phone.

DONNA

That him now?

Mel nods. She replies to his text.

EXT BOB AND GLORIA'S DRIVEWAY/ BACK LAWN-NIGHT

Sam and Will and some of Will's FRIENDS sneak past the house through the back section to the sleep-out.

They carry paper bags full of clinking bottles.

TWO GIRLS giggle.

SAM

Shhh!

WILL

You said Gramps was out.

SAM

(Urgent whisper)
Grandma's home.

INT. SLEEP-OUT-NIGHT

Will and his friends are drinking. Sam keeps turning the music down. He's nervous. Will lights a joint and passes it around. Sam's refuses. He swigs a vodka mix.

EXT. CITY STREETS-NIGHT

Mel and Donna walk along a busy street laughing.

They stop outside a nightclub.

Donna walks into the nightclub. Mel, quite drunk stops to talk to the BOUNCER.

MEL

Please ask for my I.D? Please!

BOUNCER

Dream on!

INT. NIGHTCLUB-NIGHT

Donna and Mel are dancing with TWO OLDER GUYS.

A THIRD MAN interrupts them. We see it is Kevin.

INT. NIGHTCLUB-NIGHT

Mel and Kevin slow dancing. Slow. Kissing.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB-NIGHT

Kevin helps a very drunk Mel into a taxi, and jumps in beside her. She collapses against him.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIAS CLOTHESLINE-NIGHT

Robbie's smoking by the clothesline.

He watches the party going on in the sleep-out.

INT. SLEEP-OUT-NIGHT

The party is humming. There is a KNOCK at the window. A tipsy Sam jumps up and looks out.

EXT. SLEEP-OUT-NIGHT

Vandal and Jimmi wait with TWO FRIENDS.

Sam and Will stand in the doorway.

SAM

No you can't come in.

WILL

Yeah, yeah they can.

SAM

Will, no!

WILL

I invited them.

SAM

No. Go away!

Robbie watches uneasily from the clothesline. He steps forward.

Vandal pushes Sam to get past. Sam pushes him over.

Robbie hesitates.

Jimmi grabs Sam and throws him on the ground. Vandal kicks him.

Robbie runs towards the sleep out.

Poppy growls and bites Vandal's leg. Vandal ferociously kicks Poppy. She YELPS.

Robbie dives on top of Vandal flattening him. Vandal bites Robbie on the hand. Robbie rears back.

Vandal and Jimmi get up, leer at Robbie.

JIMMI

Let's go.

They leave.

Robbie limps into the sleep-out. He's sore.

ROBBIE

(To Sam)

Are you okay?

Sam nods.

SAM

You're bleeding!

Robbie looks at his bleeding hand. He pulls down his sweatshirt sleeve to press against it.

He turns to the deflated party-goers.

ROBBIE

Everyone out, now.

They quickly disperse.

Will sits on the bed, like he owns the place.

Robbie grabs him by the scruff of the neck.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

And you can fuck off too.

WILL

Get off me. Scum.

Robbie laughs and shoves Will out.

ROBBIE

Whatever. Don't bother coming back.

Will scampers. The sleep-out is suddenly quiet.

Robbie limps around the room, stops to look at photos on the board. He hasn't been in here for years.

SAM

Robbie you're not meant to be in here!

Robbie nods. His phone rings. He doesn't answer it.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S DRIVEWAY-NIGHT

A POLICE CAR is parked. Lights flashing.

A POLICE OFFICER opens the car door and Robbie gets in. Tama talks to Gloria and Sam in front of the garage.

Kevin helps Mel up the driveway.

Mel sways, trying to work out what's going on.

Bob appears behind her.

He sees Robbie in the car.

He turns and notices Denise peering over the fence.

BOB
Get a fucki'n life Denise!

INT. MEL'S BEDROOM-MORNING

Mel slowly wakes up. Her head is throbbing. She looks beside her and sees Kevin, asleep.

She almost vomits. She's made a big mistake.

INT. CAFE

Sam and Kevin have brunch.

KEVIN
Good party?

Sam can't think straight.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Probably great until that loser
uncle of yours got into a brawl.

SAM
He did--

KEVIN
Well good riddance to him.
First hang-over?

Sam nods. Queasy.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Badge of honour.

Sam ignores this.

SAM
Did you stay--

KEVIN
Yes! Your Mum and I, I think we're
getting back together.

Kevin's pleased with himself. Sam is happy too.

INT. SLEEP OUT

Mel cleans up the remains of the party.

She fills the rubbish bin with bottles, then straightens the
bed cover, and tucks it in.

She feels something under the mattress, and pulls out a bag
of tinnies.

MEL
Bloody hell!

Bob stands in the doorway.

BOB
What's that?

Bob and Mel look at the bag.

Bob storms out.

INT. ROBBIES ROOM

Bob does a thorough police search of Robbie's room.

Under the mattress he finds a bag of buds and a bag of
capsules in Robbie's top drawer.

Mel enters, see the drugs in his hands.

She's apoplectic.

Gloria peeks in the door. Both stare at her.

GLORIA
What?

BOB
Mel found drugs in Sam's room.

Gloria is horrified.

BOB (CONT'D)
He must have got them from Robbie.
Look.

Bob shows Gloria Robbie's stash.

Gloria points to the capsules.

GLORIA
That's his pain medication.

Bob looks at Gloria. What?

BOB
Cannabis oil.

Gloria looks sick.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN-AFTERNOON

Bob holds the bag of tinnies up to Sam. Mel watches.

BOB
Where did you get these?

Sam looks down.

MEL
Sam, tell us!

SAM
I can't.

MEL
Did you get this from him?

Sam looks up, unsure.

MEL (CONT'D)
Was it Robbie?

Sam is surprised. Then he nods.

Bob and Mel's suspicions are confirmed.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BACKLAWN-MORNING

The birds are singing. Long shadows reach over the back lawn.

Poppy emerges from her kennel, stretches and pees on the grass.

She whines, waiting for everyone to wake up.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BEDROOM/HALLWAY/KITCHEN-MORNING

Gloria wakes, moves carefully as not to wake Bob, who is cuddled up to her.

She puts on a dressing gown, and leaves the room.

She walks down the hall, then stops awhile outside Robbie's empty tidy room.

Then carries on to the kitchen where Mel is drinking coffee.

Gloria makes a tea, and sits at the table. Neither speak.

The house is quiet.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/ HALL/ ROBBIE'S ROOM-LATER

Bob enters the kitchen where Sam sits alone eating.

Bob puts some toast in the toaster and turns on the radio.

A SONG LIKE 'COLDPLAY: THE SCIENTIST (OS)

Mel comes in ready for work and leaves.

Gloria brings some flax in from outside, and disappears into the lounge.

Bob heads out the back door.

Sam finishes drying the dishes, then goes into Robbie's room, crosses a day off on the calendar.

EXT. BACKLAWN-LATER

SAME SONG PLAYING (OS)

The plum tree is in full bloom.

Bob pats Poppy, then starts work in his garden.

Sam pats Poppy, lets her off the chain and takes her into his sleep out.

INT. SLEEPOUT-LATER

SAME SONG PLAYING.

Sam lies on his bed with Poppy. He is worried.

The sun moves across the room, as the afternoon passes.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S LOUNGE-EVENING

SAME SONG plays(OS)

Gloria weaves flax strands to makes a kete.

The PHONE rings/ THE SONG STOPS

Gloria waits to see if Bob will pick it up, but finally gets up to answer it.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN

Bob cooks dinner. Sam sits at the computer.

Gloria clicks off the phone.

GLORIA

Tama. He said there will be a
conference with the judge tomorrow.
Eleven.

Gloria looks at Bob.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Will you come with me?

Bob shakes his head.

BOB

Remember he's not coming back here.

Gloria sees Sam watching.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S DRIVEWAY/ BACK GARDEN-MORNING

Bob sprays weeds on the driveway.

Gloria, dressed for town, walks over to him.

GLORIA
Please Bob.

Bob shakes his head and carries on spraying.

INT. SLEEP-OUT

Sam cleans up his room. He sits gloomy on the bed, patting Poppy.

He picks up ROBBIE'S OLD SKATEBOARD. He looks ashamed. He suddenly stands up.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BACK GARDEN

Bob plants potatoes in the garden. Sam hands some to him.

SAM
Granddad?

BOB
Mmhm?

SAM
Don't be angry, but--

Bob stands up.

BOB
What?

SAM
They were my drugs.

BOB
What?

SAM
In my room.

BOB
You said Robbie--

SAM
I know. He never did. Ever.

BOB
Where did you get them from?

Sam looks awkward.

BOB (CONT'D)

Will?

Sam nods. Bob is not impressed.

BOB (CONT'D)

Why did you say it was Robbie?

He frowns at Sam.

SAM

I was scared. Of you.

Bob takes this in.

SAM (CONT'D)

Sorry.

Bob gently cuffs him over the head. He looks at his WATCH.

BOB

Come on. We better get a move on.

INT. JUDGES CHAMBERS-DAY

The WOMAN JUDGE comes into the room with a LAWYER, a POLICE OFFICER and Tama. They sit at a long table.

Robbie sits at the opposite end of the table with a PRISON GUARD. Gloria sits near him.

JUDGE

Mr. Cleaver.

Robbie nods.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

You're not well, I hear.

ROBBIE

No.

She looks at her notes. She takes her time.

JUDGE

You have broken parole. Your Probation Officer has pleaded your case, but bearing in mind the seriousness of your conviction and lack of family support, I am proposing you return to prison. Do you have anything to say?

Robbie shakes his head.

INT./ EXT MEL'S CAR

Mel swears in the drivers seat. The car is in a queue of traffic.

Bob and Sam get out and run along the street.

INT. JUDGES CHAMBERS-DAY

JUDGE
Is your family here?

Robbie nods towards Gloria.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
(To Gloria)
Do you want to say anything?

Gloria bites her lip. She is about to speak, but shakes her head.

The main door opens. Bob and Sam rush in and stop.

The COURT CLERK follows.

CLERK
Sorry, your honour..

The Judge recognises Bob.

JUDGE
Cleaver? Bob?

BOB
Yes, your honour.

JUDGE
What's this?

BOB
Robbie's my son. He needs to come home.

Robbie is stunned.

INT. ROBBIES ROOM-DAY

Robbie's sitting on his bed, dressed for his dialysis visit.

He stands up. He's wobbly.

He picks up the pen to mark his calender, but just doesn't have the energy.

EXT. COLLEGE GROUNDS-DAY.

Jenna stands watching Sam eating her lunch.

Will walks straight past ignoring them both.

JENNA

Whoa! You two broken up?

Sam laughs. He watches Will walk away with his friends. He smiles up at Jenna.

SAM

It's a long story.

INT. DIALYSIS WARD, RECEPTION

Bob opens the door for Robbie.

INT. DIALYSIS WARD CUBICLE-DAY

Robbie sits in the seat. The NURSE looks at his red and swollen arm. She races off.

Bob puts his hand on Robbie's shoulder.

INT. DIALYSIS WARD CUBICLE-DAY-LATER

The nurse, a DOCTOR and Mr Young crowd around Robbie.

Bob steps out of the cubicle

INT. RENAL WARD ROOM-NIGHT.

Robbie lies in bed hooked up to a drip. Bob, Gloria and Sam sit near his bed.

Robbie shows them the bite wound on his hand.

ROBBIE

I hope Poppy got a good bite of
him, the bastard.

The other's are happy to see some of the old Robbie.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/DINING ROOM-NIGHT

The room is messy. Dishes on the sink and cups on the table. Photo albums open on the table. We hear Poppy barking outside. The phone rings three times, clicks onto answer phone.

BOB (ANSWERPHONE)

Leave a message.

DONOR DOCTOR (O.S.)

This is an urgent message for Robert Cleaver. Can he contact me Doctor Webb from Auckland Hospital on the donor direct line (09) 4196278 or contact his own doctor as soon as possible...

Mel crashes through the door and grabs the phone.

INT. RENAL WARD ROOM-NIGHT

Bob, Sam, Gloria stand, excited.

Mel squeezes Robbie. He laughs.

GLORIA

What happen's now?

ROBBIE

They are coming to talk to me.

Mr Young arrives with a junior doctor.

He sees the family there.

MR. YOUNG

(To Robbie))

Can we talk?

ROBBIE

Here's good.

MR. YOUNG

Robbie, a kidney has come up for you but you can't have it.

ROBBIE

What?

MR. YOUNG

Not while you've got this.

He points to Robbie's arm and the drip.

MR. YOUNG (CONT'D)

The drugs we have to give you to stop you rejecting the new kidney. They will stop you fighting this infection.

ROBBIE

I'll take the risk.

Mr. Young shakes his head.

MR. YOUNG

No. We won't do that.

Robbie struggles to hold back his emotions. Mr. Young pats him on his leg.

MR. YOUNG (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

Robbie turns away. Hides his face.

Mr. Young, and the young doctor leave.

The family is distraught.

INT. RENAL WARD ROOM-DAY

Robbie sits up in bed. He's still hooked up to an antibiotic drip. Mel has brought him some books.

Kevin saunters through the door.

KEVIN

Hey!

MEL

Kevin!

KEVIN

You haven't answered my texts. Sam said you were here.

Kevin stops short when he sees Robbie.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

God you look awful!

There is an awkward silence. Kevin smiles at Mel.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
I've come to whip you away?

Kevin puts his arm around Mel. She flinches.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
I want to take you to lunch. Talk
about some plans I've got for us.

Robbie gives a look to Mel. What?

MEL
Kevin.

Mel disentangles herself.

MEL (CONT'D)
Sorry Kevin.

KEVIN
What?

Mel takes a deep breath, looks at Robbie for support.

MEL
I can't do it. You and me... it's
over.

Kevin is speechless.

INT. RENAL WARD ROOM

Kevin's gone. Robbie beams at Mel.

ROBBIE
I knew you could do it.

Mel's still a little shaky.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
You were awesome!

Mel stands up tall. Yeah.

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA-DAY

Gloria sees her old friend HUIA, in a Maori Wardens uniform.
She waves. Huia comes over to see her at her table.

HUIA
Kia ora, Glory girl!

She hugs her. And sits down.

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA-DAY

Bob carries his tray from the counter.

He looks for Gloria.

Over the other side of the cafeteria, Huia and Gloria are in full animated conversation. Gloria is like a younger version of herself, chatty, confident and laughing loudly.

Bob decides to sit at a table across the room.

He can't keep his eyes off her.

Bob's face softens. He sees the Gloria he fell in love with.

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA-DAY

Bob joins Gloria and Huia.

Huia stands up.

HUIA

Kia ora, Bob.

She holds her arms out to him. He offers his hand to shake.

She gives him a hug anyway. He's awkward.

HUIA (CONT'D)

Gotta go. See you Thursday Glory?
The other's will be thrilled.

GLORIA

I'll definitely be there.

INT. BOB'S CAR-DAY

Gloria drives Bob home in her car.

GLORIA

She wants me to teach a class with
her.

Silence.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

My weaving's a bit rusty.

BOB
You should have stuck at it.

Gloria is aghast.

GLORIA
You! You made me stop!

Bob says nothing for a long time. He clears his throat.

BOB
You should do it.

Gloria reaches out to touch Bob's leg, but decides to keep both hands on the steering wheel.

BOB (CONT'D)
Will she pay you?

Gloria glances over. Bob grins at her. Gloria smacks him on the leg.

INT MEL'S CAR/ STREET

Mel drives her car slowly down a suburban street. Sam's peering at the mailboxes.

MEL
One week with Dad and one with me.

SAM
Maybe. Stop here. Number six.

Mel pulls the car over.

MEL
It's up to you.

SAM
I'm going to miss being at Granddad's.

MEL
They'll miss you too.

They get out of the car, walk up to the front gate.

They stop in front of lovingly restored cottage with a fragrant garden. Sam is impressed. Mel looks like the cat that's got the cream.

SAM

Do you think we'd be allowed a dog here?.

EXT. STREET NEAR BOB AND GLORIA'S-DAY

The trees are new leaf green. Birds tweet.

Jenna and Sam walk Poppy. Sam picks up a dog poo with a bag then runs towards Jenna with it.

JENNA

Arrrr!

They laugh. Poppy barks at them.

SAM

I think she's jealous.

Jenna pats Poppy.

JENNA

It's okay girl, he's not worth us fighting about.

SAM

Are you sure?

He smiles at Jenna.

INT. HOSPITAL, RENAL WARD ROOM-DAY

ROBBIE

I don't want you to do this. You're my Dad.

Bob stands up.

BOB

You know nothing about being a Dad!. This is what a dad would do! Don't be so pig-headed!

Bob walks to the window. Breathes. Turns around.

BOB (CONT'D)

Look, I'm sorry for everything. I've made some big mistakes. I wish I could change that.

Bob looks out the window.

BOB (CONT'D)
There is so much I would want to
change. But I can't.

He turns back to Robbie.

BOB (CONT'D)
Please, let me do something right.

Robbie doesn't know what to say. Bob walks over to him.

BOB (CONT'D)
I need this.

Robbie looks away. Bob waits. There is a long silence.

Bob walks towards the door.

ROBBIE
You always have to have your way.

Bob freezes.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
And here you go again. Well this
time I'm not going to...

Bob turns around.

Robbie's stern face breaks into a smile.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
I'm not going to argue.

Bob's relieved.

INT. SPECIALIST'S OFFICE-DAY

Mel and Bob talk to Robbie's specialist, Mr. Young.

MR. YOUNG
(To Bob)
At your age the risks are higher...

MEL
Then it should be me...

BOB
No. You've got responsibilities.

Mel is not going to let her Dad tell her what to do.

MR. YOUNG

Well, let's get you both tested.

INT. ROBBIE'S ROOM-DAY

We see Robbie's room as he left it. Gloria strips the sheets off the bed.

Gloria lifts up the mattress.

We see the drugs.

Gloria drops the mattress. She sits down on the bed, takes the police teddy off the dressing table. She strips his shirt off, and puts him back.

Poppy jumps up beside her and licks Gloria's face. Gloria looks relaxed, and happy.

There is a KNOCK at the door. She's off.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM

Tama, Robbie and Bob arrive home. Gloria and the Security technician are there to greet him.

ROBBIE

It's good to be home.

EXT. LAWN CEMETERY-DAY

Bob washes down a grave stone, with a bucket of soapy water and a brush.

The grave stone is inscribed with the words:

Daniel Taahu Cleaver

7 February, 1976- 19th July 1993

Beloved son of Bob and Gloria and cherished big brother of Robert and Melanie

Sam watches. He stands on the sunken grass, realises what he doing, moves to the side.

SAM

You must have been mad.

BOB

What about?

SAM
With the coach.

Bob hesitates.

BOB
What... Who told you?

SAM
Robbie said it was the coaches
fault. Grandma said you can't keep
being mad. It doesn't bring him
back.

Bob takes the bucket to the end of row, fills it up under the
tap. Brings it back.

SAM (CONT'D)
I think I'd still be mad.

BOB
Did he say who the coach was?

Sam shakes his head.

Bob rinses the gravestone down and stands back.

He clears his throat.

BOB (CONT'D)
Sam, I was the coach.

Sam doesn't know what to say.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S LOUNGE

Gloria is rubbing moisturiser into her hands.

Bob cuts his toe nails. He struggles.

Gloria takes the clippers off him and cuts them for him. Rubs
his feet with moisturiser. A tender moment.

The phone rings.

Gloria holds up her sticky hands.

Bob gets up and tiptoes across the room to answer it.

BOB
Hello. Yes... Yes. Oh yes that's
good. Very good. Thanks.

Gloria watches his face.

He nods. He's beaming.

INT. HOSPITAL OPERATING THEATRE PREP ROOM-DAY

Gloria and Mel stand beside Bob who lies on the operating trolley. They hold his hands. Gloria leans forward to kiss him.

GLORIA
Love you.

BOB
Come here, come here.

He pulls her close.

BOB (CONT'D)
(Sings)
Lady I'm your knight...

GLORIA
(Laughing)
Oh, get off with you!

Mr. Young walks in, he smiles.

INT. HOSPITAL OPERATING THEATRE PREP ROOM

Robbie is prepped for theatre. Mel stands beside him, holding his hand.

MEL
It went well. Mum's with him now.

Robbie looks relieved.

A THEATRE NURSE and PORTER come to take him into theatre. Mel hugs Robbie.

Robbie squeezes her tight.

ROBBIE
Thanks!

Mel's tearful. Robbie's blinking.

He's taken through the doors and they close behind him.

INT. HOSPITAL LIFT/ ROBBIE'S ROOM-DAY.

Jenna pushes Sam who sits in a wheel chair into the lift. A blanket covers a big wriggling lump on his lap.

A stern NURSE walks out glares at them.

JENNA

(To the nurse)

He has a massive tumour.

The door opens. The nurse bustles off. They both burst out laughing.

Jenna pushes Sam into the Robbie's room. Mel, Gloria and Grant stand next to Robbie's bed.

Sam pulls back the blanket to reveal Poppy.

Poppy jumps off and whines with delight when she sees Robbie. He pats the bed and she leaps up next to his legs licking him ecstatically.

A MALE NURSE opens the door. He shakes his head and laughs.

We see everyone crammed into the room. Laughing.

EXT. BOB AND GLORIA'S BACK LAWN-DAY

SUPER:"ONE YEAR LATER"

The trees and flax bush are laden with blossoms.

Gloria walks to the back door holding a bunch of plum blossom branches.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN

The kitchen's uncluttered, freshly painted

Gloria carries the blossoms to the sink, fills a preserving jar to sit them in.

Mel with no makeup, Sam (16) and Poppy burst through the hall door.

Mel holds an oven dish and a big carry bag. Sam's clasping a bottle of juice.

SAM

Mum's made her specialty. Phad Thai

Sam chuckles at his own joke.

MEL

Haha! It's actually vegetarian lasagne.

Mel puts it on the bench and hugs her Mum.

SAM

Are they here?

GLORIA

Not yet.

Sam hugs Gloria then gets the dog bowl from the pantry and fills it with water for Poppy.

MEL

(To Gloria)

I finished it.

She opens her bag, Gloria peeks in.

GLORIA

You are getting really good.

MEL

Good teacher!

They smile.

There is a banging on the front door, Poppy barks.

Robbie, Maryanne, and Grant pile into the living room.

Hugs all round.

INT. BOB AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN/ DINING

Robbie, Maryanne, Grant, Sam sit around the table.

Robbie opens a bottle of wine.

Gloria brings over the food.

GLORIA

Don't let it get cold. Just start.

Food is passed around, and dished out.

Poppy sits at Sam's feet.

MEL
 (To Robbie and Maryanne)
 Mum told me.

The door swings open and Bob arrives. Greets everyone.

BOB
 Sorry. Grant. Robbie, Maryanne.

Mel gets a plate of food saved for Rob from the warming oven.
 Bob sits.

BOB (CONT'D)
 Thanks hon. How about a toast?

Robbie fills everyone's glasses.

Mel refuses. She reaches for the juice. Robbie is impressed.

BOB (CONT'D)
 To good health and... oops are we
 allowed to say?

ROBBIE
 Yeah, yeah.

GLORIA
 To good health and another moko!

BOB
 To another little Cleaver.

Bob smiles fondly at Robbie.

All raise their glasses and drink.

ALL
 Good health!

MEL
 When are you due?

MARYANNE
 June. Maybe Robbie's birthday.

Grant shakes Robbie hand.

GRANT
 Hey mate! That's ace!

SAM
 I am going to be an uncle!

BOB
No, Sam. A cousin.

Bob sneaks a piece of meat to Poppy who has her head in her lap.

SAM
I want to be an uncle like you
Robbie.

ROBBIE
You will be the best cousin/uncle.

Mel jumps up, finds her bag.

MEL
I made something.

She pulls out a stunning KETE she has woven. She hands it to Maryanne.

MEL (CONT'D)
For you, Maryanne.

Maryanne gently holds it in awe. She sniffs the flax.

MARYANNE
It smells fantastic!

Mel smiles at Gloria.

Bob holds Gloria's hand. They kiss.

The dinner continues.

SOUND OVER: SONG LIKE: "I SHALL BE RELEASED" BY JOE COCKER

The shot slowly widens, to include the kitchen, lounge, then outside to the garden and the street, wider still to the suburb.

Roll credits over these shots and then still photos from the families past.